The Story of the Scholar-Poet: Faizi and the Elder's Counsel

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Chapter 1: A Poet in the Court of Akbar

Eminence of Faizi: The Scholar-Poet

During the reign of Emperor Akbar, a distinguished poet flourished, known by the pen name Faizi. Renowned not only for his poetry, Faizi also claimed mastery in knowledge and scholarship. His intellectual legacy included a celebrated exegesis of the Qur'an, remarkable for having been written entirely without diacritical points.

A Moment of Reflection: The Incident with the Elder

On one occasion, Faizi was having his beard shaved and facial hair trimmed by a barber. As this was taking place, an elder passed nearby and addressed him, questioning the appropriateness of his actions in light of his scholarly standing and knowledge of sacred traditions.

A Concerned Elder:

Elder:

"Are you beginning to shave your beard, Sir?"

The elder’s words implied a gentle reproach, reminding Faizi of the prophetic traditions concerning the beard.

A Response of Conscience: Faizi’s Reply

In response to the elder’s concern, Faizi defended his actions with an assertion that, though he was committing this act, he was mindful not to cause harm or distress to others.

Faizi’s Justification:

Faizi:

"Yes, I am shaving my beard, but I do not wish to break anyone’s heart."

Faizi’s reply subtly suggested that while he might be committing a fault, he was careful not to offend or hurt anyone else’s feelings in the process.

A Final Admonition: The Elder’s Rejoinder

The elder, upon hearing Faizi’s justification, offered a poignant reminder, pointing out the deeper spiritual consequence of his action.

The Elder’s Reproach:

Elder:

"But you are breaking the heart of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him"

He emphasised that, although Faizi might not be causing distress to people, he was nonetheless disregarding the guidance of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), thereby wounding his blessed heart.